

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 04406 272252Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----272254Z 097305 /73

O 272243Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3611

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 04406

EXDIS

STADIS////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, CA

SUBJECT: NATURAL GAS PRICE INCREASE

REF: OTTAWA 4333

1. EXTAFF ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY TOWE INFORMED EMBASSY MAY 27 THAT SCHEDULING PROBLEMS MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR GOC TO CONSULT EARLY IN WEEK OF MAY 30 AS ORIGINALLY SUGGESTED. TOWE PROPOSES CONSULTATIONS TAKE PLACE IN OTTAWA EITHER (A) MORNING OF FRIDAY JUNE 3 OR (B) MORNING OF WEDNESDAY JUNE 8. IN RESPONSE TO ECON COUNSELOR'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN THAT DELAY MIGHT MEAN RESULTS OF CONSULTATION WOULD NOT BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN GOC DECISION PROCESS, TOWE -- AFTER CHECKING WITH GORDON MACNABB, DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES -- SAID MACNABB ASSURES HIM THAT IT WILL BE "SOME WEEKS" BEFORE DECISION TAKEN AND WE NEED NOT BE CONCERNED ABOUT TIMING.

2. TOWE SAID MACNABB WOULD HEAD CANADIAN SIDE AND THAT HE (TOWE) WOULD PARTICIPATE. HE AND MACNABB HOPE THAT, IN ADDITION TO EXCHANGE ON GAS PRICES, MEETING WILL PROVIDE
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OCCASION FOR DISCUSSION OF A RANGE OF OTHER ENERGY POLICY ISSUES.

3. COMMENT: IN LIGHT IMPORTANCE OF THIS ISSUE AND LEVEL OF GOC REPRESENTATION, AMBASSADOR STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT USG FIELD SENIOR LEVEL DELEGATION HEADED BY AT LEAST ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE WHICH DATE USG PREFERS
FOR CONSULTATIONS SO THAT EMBASSY CAN INFORM TOWE, IF
POSSIBLE ON TUESDAY, MAY 31. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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